

Notes on a new African Squirrel from Gaboon.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

Mr. Ansell has sent from the Gaboon to the Museum a small squirrel which appears to be new to the catalogues—

Sciurus Sharpei.

The fur soft, olive, very closely and finely punctulated with yellow. End of nose, upper lip, underside of head, neck, and body, and inner side of limbs white. Back blackish, separated from the grey of the sides by a distinct margin, with an indistinct, pale, central, vertebral streak and a short broad streak on each side of the upper part of the back. Tail blackish, with white and yellowish tips to the hairs, which form close, irregular, interrupted cross bands and a pale margin to the sides of the tail; the hair of the tail reddish at the base, with a broad black band in the centre and with pale tips; of the end of the tail nearly entirely black, without any pale tips.

Hab. Gaboon (*Ansell*).

This species is most like *Sciurus Isabella*, Gray (P. Z. S. 1862, p. 180, t. xxiv.; Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1867, xx. p. 326), in colour; but the fur is shorter and harsher, the central stripe is more indistinct, and the lateral ones much narrower. The underside is white.

Note on a Specimen of Macroxus annulatus, var. Frerei, from Zanzibar. By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

Mr. Bartle Frere has kindly sent to the Museum the skin of a small squirrel from Zanzibar, which at first sight I was inclined to regard as a new species, on account of its distinct pale olive cheeks showing vividly against its black whiskers, and the pale but bright orange-colour of the underside of the body, rump, and inside of the limbs, and of the pale rufous colour of the tips of the hairs of the tail forming a pale margin on the sides of the hinder half of the tail. I at first proposed to call it *Macroxus Frerei*; but on comparing it with the specimens of *M. annulatus* in the Museum (which generally has the cheeks and underside white, and the tail pale varied with blackish), I found one specimen, brought from Abyssinia by Mr. Blanford, found at an elevation of 4000 feet, which had the cheeks and underside of body reddish and the rump reddish, approaching to but not near so dark and bright as the Zanzibar specimen, and the tail intermediate in colour between the Zanzibar and the common state of this species. There is in the Museum a specimen of *Macroxus annulatus* brought by Mr. Jesse from Abyssinia, exactly like the common colour of that species, which seems to be common to the west, south, and eastern parts of Africa.

Habit of Pandora. By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

I have often observed living specimens of this animal lying in burrows of sand, as described by Mr. Mason ('Annals,' xii. p. 184); but I cannot get at its natural habitat. The shells are only washed up there by the tide; and if they do not get into their natural situation they die, and will be found with the valves gaping open.